

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 15, 2026, | 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Reading City Hall, 2nd Floor
815 Washington St, Reading, PA 19601**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moment of Silence or Prayer

III. Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance: Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, Ann Sheehan, Virna Quinones, Claudette Bullock, Jonathan Mejia, David Myers and Debra Bradford (via Zoom). Ms. Bradford left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Members absent were Tanya Melendez, Carlos Rivera and Sheila Perez.

Staff present: Edwin L. Stock, Esquire, Solicitor.

There were a sufficient number of members present to establish a quorum.

IV. Public Comments - Agenda Related

There were no public comments.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

The Chair had no opening remarks. Ms. Quinones moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2026. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

VI. Meeting Schedule

January 22, 2026 - Council Chambers

January 29, 2026 - Council Chambers

VII. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

(a) Review of Survey Results.

The Chair collected survey results from several of the Commission Members in attendance.

(b) Consideration of Referendum Questions/Approval of Referendum Questions

Attached hereto are the Draft Referendum Questions which were presented. The results of the action taken on the Referendum Questions are indicated on the attached Referendum Questions.

(c) **Consideration of Department of Health.**
See (b) above.

(d) **Consideration of Toxic Trespass.**
This was not discussed.

VIII. Public Comments – General
There were no public comments.

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

DRAFT REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. Shall the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to create a Department of Public Health with the authority to collaborate with community partners and which will be fully operational within two years of voter approval?

January 15, 2026 Action on this Question was deferred until the January 22, 2026 meeting.

2. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(c) Membership of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to allow individuals with outstanding parking tickets of \$300.00 or less to be appointed to City boards, commissions or authorities?

January 15, 2026 This Question was withdrawn.

3. Shall Article XII General Provisions Section 1201(c) and the Enforcement of Charter section be amended to merge the Board of Ethics and Charter Board into one Board called Ethics and Charter Board?

January 15, 2026 Quinones moved to approve and Sheehan seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	No
Quinones	Yes
Bullock	Yes
Mejia	No
Myers	Yes
Sheehan	Yes

This Question was approved by a vote of 4-2.

4. Shall Article II Council - The Legislative Branch Section 209(h) be added to the Reading Home Rule Charter to provide that no member of city council shall serve as a voting board member of any municipal authority?

January 15, 2026 **Any action in this Question was deferred until January 22, 2026.**

5. Shall Article II Council - The Legislative Branch Section 225 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the term of the City Clerk shall be five years and that the City Clerk shall not hold any office or position in a political party?

January 15, 2026 **Solicitor was directed to add language that the City Clerk cannot hold any office in a political party.**

Solicitor was directed to add an additional question with term limits for the City Clerk of two (2) five (5) year terms.

6. Shall Article III Executive Branch Section 309(a) of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to add that the Mayor shall appoint one Chief of Police?

January 15, 2026 Myers moved to approve and Sheehan seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	Yes
Quinones	No
Bullock	Yes
Myers	Yes
Mejia	Yes
Sheehan	Yes

This Question was approved 5-1.

7. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(d) be added to the Reading Home Rule Charter to provide that no member of an authority, board or commission may serve more than three terms consecutively?

January 15, 2026 **Due to disagreement, this Question was subject to a formal motion to defer.**

Quinones moved to defer and Sheehan seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	No
Quinones	Yes
Bullock	No
Mejia	Yes
Sheehan	Yes
Meyers	Yes

By a vote of 4-2, this Question was deferred for later consideration.

8. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(e) of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that no active City employee may be appointed or serve on an authority, board or commission?

January 15, 2026 Consideration of this Question was deferred.

9. Shall Article XIII Transition Section 1312 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the boundaries of council districts shall be realigned every ten years based on the most recent U.S. Census so as to provide for proportionate representation?

January 15, 2026 Myers moved to approve and Sheehan seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	No
Myers	Yes
Quinones	Yes
Bullock	No
Sheehan	Yes
Mejia	Yes

This Question was approved by a vote of 4-2.

10. Shall the Preamble to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Reading be amended to include this statement about equal and inclusive treatment?:

“ensure equitable and inclusive access to all residents without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, language, sexual preference, religion, and/or immigration status to the City’s governmental programing, services, and processes.”

January 15, 2026 Myers moved to approve and Sheehan seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	Yes
Quinones	Yes
Bullock	Yes
Myers	Yes
Mejia	Yes
Sheehan	Yes

This Question was approved 6-0.

11. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(c) be amended so that the last section reads "Appointees may serve concurrently on more than one authority, board or commission"?

January 15, 2026 Action on this Question was not reached.

12. Shall the Home Rule Charter Section X Boards and Commissions be amended by adding Section 1002(d) to provide that individuals should not be disqualified from appointments to an authority, board or commission because of taxes, fines or other amounts owed to the City provided that at the time of such appointment evidence exists of satisfactory arrangements for payment of such amounts?

January 15, 2026 Mejia moved to approve and Myers seconded.

Roll Call:

Morrison	Yes
Quinones	No
Sheehan	Yes
Bullock	Yes
Mejia	Yes
Myers	Yes

This Question was approved 5-1.

13. Shall the Home rule Charter Article X Boards and Commissions be amended by adding Section 1002(e) which will provide "upon appointment to an authority, board or commission, the appointee shall receive from the City two hours of orientation regarding the purpose, operations and affairs of the authority, board or commission"?

January 15, 2026 This Question was not reached.

14. Shall the Home Rule Charter Article IX Financial Procedures be amended by adding Section 916 which provides that City Council may, on its own initiative or at the request of the Mayor, by ordinance direct that a forensic audit of any City department be performed by a qualified forensic auditor? If the Mayor requests that Council direct that a forensic audit be performed, Council shall authorize such forensic audit unless five (5) members of Council vote that such forensic audit is not required.

January 15, 2026 This Question was not reached.